



6. “The Affairs of the Unfair”

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

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Sermon Notes

The Desert can be A BITTER PLACE WE SETTLE WHEN WE ARE TREATED UNFAIRLY

... ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?” Exodus 15:22-24

I. 1 Kings 2:1-6

¹ When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son... ⁵ “Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me— ⁶ Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

The Unfair Desert LEADS TO A LEGACY OF BITTERNESS

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:15

II. 2 Samuel 3:20-28, 37-39

²⁸ Later, when David heard about this, he said, “I and my kingdom are forever innocent before the Lord concerning the blood of Abner son of Ner. ²⁹ May his blood fall on the head of Joab and on his whole family!

The Unfair Desert IS FILLED WITH BETRAYAL AND JEALOUSY

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians

III. 1 Samuel 30:1-6a, 18-20

¹ David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, ² and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old... ^{6a} David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters... ¹⁸ David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives...

The Unfair Desert IS NOT A PLACE TO FIND LOYALTY

Bad work gets paid with a bad check; good work gets solid pay. ¹⁹ Take your stand with God's loyal community and live, or chase after phantoms of evil and die. ²⁰ God can't stand deceivers, but oh how he relishes integrity. Proverbs 11:18-20 MSG

IV. 1 Samuel 26:1-11

⁸ Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice." ⁹ But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? ¹⁰ As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish...

The Unfair Desert IS AN UNDERMINING ENVIRONMENT

... the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land. Psalm 68:6b

V. 1 Samuel 22:1-2

¹ David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. ² All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him.

The Unfair Desert ATTRACTS OTHERS MIRED IN

BITTERNESS TO OUR CAUSE

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." ³⁴ Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame. 1 Corinthians 15:33-34